

WYCOMBE
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND OF THE

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

1961

Medical Officer of Health :

A. J. MUIR, M.B., Ch.B., B.Hy., D.P.H.

Chief Public Health Inspector :

J. P. PERRY, M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H.

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WYCOMBE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

1964

Chairman:

Mr F. Hales

Vice-Chairman:

S/Ldr. B. Lock.

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

at 1st May, 1964.

Chairman:

Mr G.B. Lee

The Chairman of the Council	
The Vice-Chairman of the Council	
The Immediate Past Chairman of the Council	
The Chairman of the Finance Committee	
The Chairman of the Public Works Committee	
The Chairman of the General Purposes Committee	
Mr E. Burrows	Mrs F.H. Pitcher
Mrs A.M. Conoley	Mr G. Spear
Mr E.C. Halsey	Rev. H.H. Vickers
Mr H.A. Harris	Mrs D.M. Walker
Mr R.C. Hunt	Mr R. Walker
S/Ldr. H.B. Jefferies	Mrs C. Wontner
Mrs A.S. Laing	Mr R. Wooster
Mr H.F. Nixey	



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STAFF.

Medical Officer of Health:

A.J. MUIR, M.B., Ch.B., B.Hy., D.P.H.

(Also Area and Divisional School Medical Officer,
Buckinghamshire County Council.

Medical Officer of Health, High Wycombe Borough and
Marlow Urban District Council).

Main Office Address: Municipal Health Centre,
High Wycombe. Tel. H.W. 4031/2
Home Tel. H.W. 1338

Deputy Medical Officer of Health:

T.E. ROBERTS, M.B., B.S., D (Obst.) R.C.O.G., D.P.H.
Resigned Sept. 1961.

P.E. DOYLE, M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., D.A., D.P.H.
Appointed Nov., 1961.

(Also Assistant County Medical and School Medical Officer,
Buckinghamshire County Council.

Deputy Medical Officer of Health, High Wycombe Borough
and Marlow Urban District Council).

Chief Public Health Inspector:

J.P. PERRY, M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H.

Senior Public Health Inspector:

B.R. NAGLE, M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H. Appointed June 1961.

Public Health Inspectors:

R. EVANS, M.A.P.H.I. Resigned Feb. 1961.

J.D. HACKFORD, M.A.P.H.I., A.M.I.P.H.E., Appointed July 1961.

S.A. LATIMER, C.R.S.H.

D.J. SULLIVAN, M.A.P.H.I. Resigned Sept. 1961.

A.H. TRANTUM, M.A.P.H.I., A.R.S.H. Appointed Sept. 1961.

Clerks:

MISS R.M. SPENCER

MISS S.E. BALL

Rodent Operatives:

E.V. BOWLER

MRS D. KIBBLES

WYCOMBE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Public Health Department,
28, High Street,
High Wycombe.

October 1962.

To the Chairman and Members of
the Wycombe Rural District Council.

Mr Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting my 8th Annual Report on the
Health Service of the District.

1961 was Census Year and the population recorded was 50,831 compared with 43,620 at the 1951 census. The Registrar General's estimate of the population for mid 1961 was 52,020 which represented an increase of 2,910 on that for the previous year, (49,110). As births exceeded deaths by 500 the balance (1,410) was the excess of inward over outward migration.

In 1961 there were 22 more births than in 1960 - 946 compared with 924. Because of the increase of 2,910 in the estimated population there was a fall in the birth rate from 18.8 to 18.2 per 1,000 related births.

The number of deaths fell from 485 to 446 and accordingly there was a reduction in the mortality rate 9.9. to 8.6 per 1,000 of the resident population.

Infant deaths numbered 12 compared with 21 previously - this produced a reduction in the infantile mortality rate from 22.7 to 12.7 per 1,000 births. This compares very favourably with 21.4 which is the national figure.

446 deaths were registered and of these 236 were due to diseases of the heart and circulatory system, the other main causes being cancer and respiratory disease which accounted for 89 and 46 respectively.

As regards cancer the organ giving rise to most deaths was the lung there being 16 cases - only 3 being in respect of females.

With the possible exception of some types of skin cancer this form of the disease, theoretically, should lend itself most to preventive measures against its occurrence but until the public becomes as concerned with the yearly number of deaths from lung cancer - in England and Wales amounting to 25,000 - as they were with the seven hundred odd deaths from poliomyelitis when this was at its peak there is very little hope of achieving any reduction in these melancholy figures.

1961 was a measles year and there were 984 notifications compared with 13 of the previous year - the only other disease which was mildly prevalent was whooping cough which accounted for 25. No case of diphtheria was notified and it is hoped that there will not be a recurrence for many years. The isolation of patients and the search for and treatment of carriers takes up too much time!

The prevention of disease is the aim of the Public Health Service and in this the medical staff, in securing the protection of the population by immunological procedures, and the Public Health Inspectors by their supervision of the food supplies and the environmental conditions of the population play an important part.

I thank the Council for their interest and encouragement during the year and I record my appreciation of the co-operation of Mr Perry and of the entire staff of the department throughout the year.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

A.J. MUIR.

Medical Officer of Health.

STATISTICS.

Area in acres.....	71,232
Population (1961) census.....	50,831
Registrar General's Estimate of population mid-1961.....	52,020
No. of inhabited houses on rate book (31st March, 1961) ..	15,079
Rateable Value as at 1st April, 1961.....	£677,209
Estimated Product of Penny Rate 1st April, 1961.....	£2,776

EXTRACT FROM THE VITAL STATISTICS.

Live Births

Number.....	946
Rate per 1000 population.....	18.2
Comparability Factor.....	0.95
Adjusted Birth Rate.....	17.29

Illegitimate Live Births per cent of total live births...	3.49
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Stillbirths

Number.....	11
Rate per 1000 total live and still births.....	11.49

Total Live and Still Births.....	957
----------------------------------	-----

Infant Deaths (deaths under 1 year).....	12
--	----

Infant Mortality Rates

Total infant deaths per 1000 total live births.....	12.7
Legitimate " " " " legitimate live births...	13.14
Illegitimate " " " " illegitimate " " ...	0.00

Neo-natal Mortality Rate (deaths under 4 weeks per 1000 total live births).....	10.6
--	------

Early Neo-natal Mortality Rate (deaths under 1 week per 1000 total live births) ..	8.45
---	------

Perinatal Mortality Rate (stillbirths and deaths under 1 week combined per 1000 total live and still births)...	20.06
--	-------

Maternal Mortality (including abortion)

Number of deaths.....	-
Rate per 1000 total live and still births.....	-

DEATHS.

Number of Deaths	-	Males	-	233
		Females	-	213
				<u>446</u>
Death Rate per 1,000 of the Estimated Population.....				8.6
Comparability Factor.....				1.13
Adjusted Local Death Rate.....				9.72
Death Rate of England and Wales.....				12.0
Tuberculosis Death Rate, Total County.....				0.035

INFANT MORTALITY.

12 infants died under the age of one year.

	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Legitimate.....	9	3	12
Illegitimate.....	0	0	0
	<u>9</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>12</u>

This represents a mortality rate of 12.7 per 1,000 related births compared with 21.4 as a general figure for England and Wales.

Neo-natal mortality rate - 10.6, compared with a county rate of 14.0.

MATERNAL DEATHS.

- (a) From puerperal sepsis..... 0
- (b) From other maternal causes 0

TABLE OF DEATHS.

<u>DISEASE.</u>	<u>MALES.</u>	<u>FEMALES.</u>	<u>TOTAL.</u>
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory.....	1	2	3
2. Tuberculosis, other.....	0	0	0
3. Syphilitic diseases.....	1	0	1
4. Diphtheria.....	0	0	0
5. Whooping Cough.....	0	0	0
6. Meningococcal Infections.....	0	0	0
7. Acute Poliomyelitis.....	0	0	0
8. Measles.....	0	0	0
9. Other infectious diseases.....	0	1	1
10. Cancer, Stomach.....	3	4	7
11. Cancer, lungs.....	13	3	16
12. Cancer, breast.....	0	6	6
13. Cancer, uterus.....	0	5	5
14. Other cancers.....	35	20	55
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia.....	3	0	3
16. Diabetes.....	0	2	2
17. Vascular lesions, nervous svstem.....	26	38	64
18. Coronary diseases, angina.....	46	31	77
19. Hypertension with heart disease.....	10	4	14
20. Other heart diseases.....	30	35	65
21. Other circulatory diseases.....	2	14	16
22. Influenza.....	3	0	3
23. Pneumonia.....	8	12	20
24. Bronchitis.....	10	10	20
25. Other respiratory diseases.....	3	0	3
26. Gastric and duodenal ulcer.....	2	2	4
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea....	0	4	4
28. Nephritis, nephrosis.....	0	1	1

Table of Deaths. (contd).

<u>DISEASE.</u>	<u>MALES.</u>	<u>FEMALES.</u>	<u>TOTAL.</u>
29. Hyperplasia of prostate.....	4	0	4
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion....	0	0	0
31. Congenital malformations.....	3	4	7
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases.....	15	10	25
33. Motor vehicle accidents.....	7	3	10
34. Other accidents.....	5	1	6
35. Suicide.....	3	1	4
36. Homicide and operations of war.....	0	0	0
All causes.....	233	213	446

MATERNAL MORTALITY.

Rates per 1,000 Total
(live and still) Births.

	<u>England &</u> <u>Wales.</u>	<u>Wycombe</u> <u>Rural</u> <u>District.</u>
(a) Maternal causes, excluding abortion...		Nil
(b) Due to abortion.....		Nil
(c) Total maternal mortality....	0.33	0.00

CANCER DEATHS.

Deaths from Cancer (all ages):-

Males.....	51
Females.....	38
Total	89

Yearly comparison of cancer deaths:-

1961.....	89
1960.....	99
1959.....	81
1958.....	77
1957.....	84
1956.....	79

The following organs were affected:-

Stomach.....	7
Lungs.....	16
Breast.....	6
Uterus.....	5
Other Sites.....	55
Total.....	89

TUBERCULOSIS DEATHS.

Tuberculosis Death Rate (all cases).....	0.058
Total Deaths - Respiratory Tuberculosis.....	3
Respiratory Tuberculosis Death Rate.....	0.058
Total Deaths - Non-Respiratory Tuberculosis.....	0
Non-Respiratory Tuberculosis Death Rate.....	0.00
Total Deaths - Respiratory (excluding Tuberculosis)...	43
Respiratory Death Rate (excluding Tuberculosis).....	0.82

POPULATIONS, BIRTH AND MORTALITY RATES FOR THE YEAR 1961

District	Population Census 1961	Registrar-General's estimated Population Mid-1961	Crude Birth Rate per 1,000 Population	Crude Death Rate per 1,000 Population	Tuberculosis Death Rate per 1,000 Population	Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 Births	Neo-Natal Mortality Rate per 1,000 Births	Maternal Mortality per 1,000 live and still births
Bucks County	486,183	491,400	18.6	9.4	0.035	18.1	14.0	0.11
Total Urban	240,990	242,740	19.8	9.1	0.003	19.0	14.4	0.21
Total Rural	245,193	248,660	17.4	9.6	0.036	17.1	13.6	0.00
Wycombe Rural	50,831	52,020	18.2	8.6	0.058	12.7	10.6	0.00
England and Wales			17.4	12.0	0.072	21.4	15.5	0.33

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS) 1961.

Disease	Total Cases Notified	Under 1 yr.	1 yr.	2 yrs.	3 yrs.	4 yrs.	5 - 9 yrs.	10 - 14 yrs.	15 - 24 yrs.	25+	Age Un- known
Scarlet Fever.....	3	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	-	-	-
Whooping Cough.....	25	3	1	1	1	3	14	2	-	-	-
Acute Poliomyelitis:											
Paralytic	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Non-Paralytic.....	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Measles.....	984	21	57	88	106	100	532	62	8	4	6
Diphtheria.....	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Acute Pneumonia	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Dysentery.....	4	-	-	-	-	-	1	3	-	-	-
Smallpox.....	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Acute Encephalitis:											
Infective.....	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Post Infectious.....	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Enteric or Typhoid Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Paratyphoid Fevers.....	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Erysipelas.....	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Meningococcal Infection.	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Food Poisoning.....	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia.....	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ophthalmia Neonatorum...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals.....	1,020	26	58	89	107	103	549	68	8	6	6

TUBERCULOSIS

NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING THE YEAR 1961.

Age Periods	(a) New Cases				(b) Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-
5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
10	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15	1	1	-	-	-	1	-	-
25	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
35	1	3	-	-	-	1	-	-
45	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
55	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
65+	2	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Totals	6	6	1	1	1	2	-	-

VACCINATION AGAINST POLIOMYELITIS.

Arrangements to immunise all the eligible classes willing to avail themselves of the facilities provided continued throughout the year in which in this area 46,847 injections were given. This makes a grand total of 202,950 since the inception of the scheme.

IMMUNISATION AGAINST DIPHTHERIA.

In 1961 640 primary courses were completed and 456 boosting doses were given. This is a great decrease on the figures for the previous year, (956 primary and 1,254 boosters), but these figures were inflated because of the alarm caused by the reappearance in the district of diphtheria after an absence of 15 years. Fortunately there has been no recurrence of the disease.

IMMUNISATION AGAINST WHOOPING COUGH AND TETANUS.

794 children were immunised against whooping cough and 150 children had injections against tetanus.

SMALLPOX VACCINATION.

603 primary vaccinations were carried out and 23 re-vaccinations.

B.C.G. VACCINATION (TUBERCULOSIS).

The scheme for the tuberculin testing of school children in the 13 year group continued during the year and visits were paid to both maintained and private schools. In this area 1,710 children were tested, 91% of whom were negative and had to be vaccinated.

This procedure is of undoubted value and reporting recently the Medical Officer of a very large area stated that since the inception of the scheme in 1955 there had been no notification of the disease having affected an immunised person.

HOSPITALS.

Hospitals available to local residents are as follows:-

General:-

High Wycombe War Memorial
Amersham General
Stoke Mandeville
Royal Bucks Hospital, Aylesbury.
Battle Hospital, Reading.
Canadian Red Cross Hospital, Taplow.

Maternity:-

Shrubbery Maternity Home
Amersham General Hospital
Canadian Red Cross Hospital

Fevers:

Stoke Mandeville and
Maidenhead Isolation Hospitals.

Mental:

St John's Hospital, Stone.

AMBULANCE SERVICES.

These are based on the station at West End Street, High Wycombe. With the increasing population of the districts served consideration is being given to the need to provide extended facilities.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948.

Section 47

-

No formal action

DETAILS OF WATER SUPPLY.

I am indebted to your Engineer & Surveyor for the following table:-

Parish	Supplied direct by pipes into houses		Supplied by Standpipes	
	No. of Houses.	Estimated Population.	No. of Houses.	Estimated Population.
Bledlow-cum-Saunderton.	606	1,940	4	20
Bradenham.....	42	325	-	-
Chepping Wycombe Rural.	2,891	8,215	30	110
Ellesborough.....	285	995	4	16
Fawley.....	59	260	4	14
Fingest.....	576	2,295	12	46
Hambleton.....	433	1,780	10	40
Hampden, Gt & Lt.....	112	435	5	18
Hedsor.....	44	175	1	3
Hughenden.....	1,930	6,485	15	60
Ibstone.....	96	345	2	9
Kimble, Gt & Lt.....	259	905	2	7
Lacey Green.....	386	1,620	5	21
Longwick-cum-Ilmer.....	178	730	2	7
Marlow, Gt.....	658	1,845	18	68
Marlow, Lt.....	269	1,130	6	23
Medmenham.....	127	895	3	14
Radnage.....	207	590	3	9
Princes Risborough.....	2,005	6,485	4	15
Stokenchurch.....	823	3,120	5	18
Turville.....	106	445	10	28
West Wycombe Rural.....	582	2,185	10	34
Wooburn.....	2,480	7,731	22	72
Totals.....	15,154	50,931	177	653

CESSPOOL EMPTYING 1961.

I am also indebted to your Engineer & Surveyor for the following figures:-

Dis- trict.		Estimated Gallons Removed.
1	Speen, Lacey Green, Gt & Lt Hampden, Butlers Cross, Terrick, Ellesborough, Loosley Row, Parslows Hillock, Bradenham, Dunsmore, Bryants Bottom, North Dean, Hughenden Valley.....	2,701,500
2	Princes Risborough, Monks Risborough, Bledlow & Bledlow Ridge, Longwick, Meadle, Ilmer, Saunderton, Kimble, Marsh, Horsenden, Asckett, Whiteleaf, Bradenham, Pictonville, Owlswick, Loudwater.....	2,913,000
3	Tylers Green, Penn, Hammersley Lane, London Road, Queensmead, Fassetts Road, Norwood Road, Robinson Road. (Part Loudwater).....	2,831,000
4	Stokenchurch, Radnage, Water End.....	3,515,500
5	Naphill, Walters Ash.....	2,053,000
6	Gt & Lt Marlow, Sheepridge, Frieth, Ibstone, Fawley, Hambleden, Cadmore End, Turville, Skirmett, Medmenham, Fingest, Bovington Green, North & Southend	1,915,600
7	Hazlemere, Holmer Green, Dashwood Hill, Horsleys Green, Studley Green, Beacons Bottom, Terriers, Eastern Dene.....	3,105,500
8	Flackwell Heath.....	1,617,500
9	Great Kingshill, Widmer End, Four Ashes, Cryers Hill, Prestwood, Spurlands End, Western Dene.....	3,523,500
10	Wooburn, Wooburn Green, Cores End, Hawks Hill, Berghers Hill, Upper Bourne End, Kingsmead Road, Hedsor, Heavens Lea, Harvest Hill, Wooburn Moor.....	1,550,000
11	Bourne End, Well End.....	2,530,500
12	Downley, Piddington, Lane End, Wheeler End. (West Wycombe Part), Bolter End	2,431,000
13-15	Extra vehicles used in all districts.....	5,001,500
	Total	35,689,100

RAINFALL 1961.

I am indebted to the Director of the Forest Products Research Laboratory, Princes Risborough, for the following particulars of rainfall recorded during 1961.

Rainfall recorded at Princes Risborough

Station: 333 feet above sea level

Month	Monthly Rain- fall Inches	No. of days on which rain fell with .01 or more measured.	Largest Rainfall	
			Date	Amount Inches
January.....	2.93	16	28th	.40
February.....	2.62	16	27th	.55
March.....	0.18	4	18th	.09
April.....	3.46	22	25th	.57
May.....	0.68	7	2nd	.23
June.....	1.40	8	12th	1.00
July.....	1.55	10	15th	.47
August.....	1.87	15	4th	.70
September.....	2.32	14	13th	.73
October.....	3.93	21	26th	.70
November.....	2.16	14	6th & 10th	.55
December.....	3.64	16	29th	.80
Totals.....	26.74	163		

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR'S REPORT, 1961.

Public Health Department,
28, High Street,
High Wycombe.

To the Chairman and Members of
the Wycombe Rural District Council.

Mr Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Herewith I beg to submit a Summary of the work carried
out by the Department in the year 1961.

I am,

Mr Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

J.P. PERRY

Chief Public Health Inspector.

FOREWORD.

There has been a great improvement in the health of the people during the past fifty years. With the results achieved and the emphasis in recent years on the personal health service the significance of environmental hygiene is apt to be forgotten.

Complacency is unjustified however as there are still potential dangers to health. Our environment is filled with new conditions and substances that may impair our health while contributing to our opulence and pleasures. Treatment of food is now completely revolutionised by current technology, chemistry and bacteriology. Preservation methods include pasteurisation, sterilization, refrigeration, freezing, dehydration, pickling and the application of antibiotics, hormones, vacuum and irradiation. Poisonous substances are being increasingly used against agricultural pests and numerous synthetics have been developed for use as rodenticides, herbicides and piscicides.

Air pollution is still a major problem, food poisoning outbreaks number many thousands each year and river and sea pollution exists. Radio-active materials are being used more and more, noise menaces us on an increasing scale and much remains to be done in the field of housing before every family enjoys adequate accommodation. These are some of the matters which serve to remind us of the need for a sustained effort in the field of environmental hygiene in order that people may enjoy happier, healthier and more comfortable lives.

The work of the Council is reflected to some extent in the report submitted under the following sections:-

SECTION 'A'	HOUSING
SECTION 'B'	WATER SUPPLIES
SECTION 'C'	SANITATION
SECTION 'D'	PEST INFESTATION CONTROL
SECTION 'E'	SUPERVISION OF FOOD SUPPLIES
SECTION 'F'	FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS
SECTION 'G'	ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION AND SMOKE ABATEMENT
SECTION 'H'	MISCELLANEOUS

SECTION 'A'

HOUSING.

Generally.

Of all the matters dealt with by the Public Health Department housing is a major and traditional duty.

To maintain and improve housing standards, to clear areas where improvement is impracticable and to control and solve the varying questions of unsatisfactory accommodation and overcrowding have always claimed prior attention.

In previous annual reports I have drawn attention to the inadequacy of the present penal standard of fitness ignoring as it does such matters as provision of bath, hot water supply, internal water closet, heating of rooms and artificial lighting, and emphasised the need to encourage and in appropriate cases to compel owners to improve their houses with the aid of improvement grants.

Improvement Grants.

The idea of subsidising the property owner from public funds if he improves his property dates from 1926, but the Act introduced in that year for this purpose was not a great success.

In 1949 the scheme was resurrected in a greatly improved form. The drive to bring the 4 million aged houses up-to-date was on. The owners' response however was disappointing.

The failure of the 1949 Act to achieve its object was recognised by the introduction of "standard grants" in 1959 and by some relaxation of the conditions imposed on the acceptance of the discretionary grant.

To what extent have these schemes succeeded? It is generally considered that progress is too slow and is not affecting to any substantial degree the tenanted properties in the country.

Why have the improvement grant schemes been so much less popular than was generally anticipated? The terms are generous, the restrictions few. It is sometimes alleged that local authorities have not advertised the scheme sufficiently but there can be few aspects of a local authority's work which have been so well publicised. Half a million copies of a free explanatory leaflet have been distributed, and films and the medium of television have been used for this purpose. It is impossible to avoid the conclusion that many landlords simply do not want to improve their properties.

Since persuasion has clearly failed there appears to be a case for compulsion. In 1956 the General Council of the Association of Public Health Inspectors said in relation to improvement grants:-

"It appears inevitable that some measure of compulsion will be necessary if any substantial progress is to be made."

At their Annual Conference in 1956 the following resolution was passed:-

"That the Minister of Housing & Local Government be requested to introduce legislation empowering local authorities to enforce the improvement of houses so as to satisfy modern standards of comfort and convenience, and giving statutory recognition to the standard for a satisfactory house recommended in 1946 by the Sub-Committee on Standards of Fitness for Habitation of the Central Housing Advisory Committee."

At their Annual Conference held at Bournemouth in 1961, the General Council advocated that powers of compulsion be given to local authorities to enable them to declare "Improvement Areas" and to make "Improvement Orders" following a procedure similar to that which now has to be observed in the declaration of clearance areas and the making of demolition orders.

As already indicated owners, particularly of private rented houses, are not availing themselves of the improvement grants in sufficient numbers to make any real impact on the problem of the sub-standard house. In 1961 the total number of grants, in fact, fell to 123,447 (including just over 41,000 to local authorities) compared with 125,807 in 1960. Of the grants made in 1961, 85,776 were paid to private owners, but nearly 70 per cent were owner-occupiers, leaving less than 23,000 to owners of rented property.

At this rate of progress it is estimated that it will take some 40 years to raise all houses to the improvement grant standard.

Television is a must in the home to-day, together with the washing machine, spin dryer and refrigerator. These are typical of the new way of life. With the improved standard of living, families more than ever demand what was once considered the luxury of bathrooms. The modern housewife regards the kitchen as the most important room in the house and hot water as a necessity, as also are an internal water closet compartment and wash hand basin.

The millions of families denied these facilities will view with despair the present rate of house improvement, and increasingly demand an intensification of action which will result in raising the statutory standard of fitness to a modern level.

Houses in Multiple Occupation.

In the previous report I commented on the difficulties throughout the country which had arisen through the occupation by several families or lodgers of houses designed originally for one family. Often the occupiers live under squalid conditions. The problem is spreading from the big cities in the North, Midlands and London to the rest of the country.

During the year under review the Housing Act 1961 came into force. This legislation is designed to give local authorities stronger powers to improve the living standards of those families who have to share facilities with all the associated difficulties, inconvenience and lack of privacy.

Housing Action.

At the end of 1955 the Council submitted for the Ministry's approval proposals for dealing with 451 unfit houses liable to demolition.

Implementation of the approved proposals has steadily proceeded in the ensuing years and during the year under review the programme was completed by securing the repair, closure or demolition of these houses.

Remaining sub-standard properties are being dealt with as individual unfit houses and formal housing action is proceeding accordingly.

In 1961 thirty-seven houses were inspected in connection with standard grant applications submitted to the Council.

SUMMARY OF NOTICES SERVED.

(a) Proceedings under Sections 5, 10 & 12 of the Housing Act, 1957:-

- | | |
|---|-----|
| (1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs, (informal notices).... | 6 |
| (2) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which formal notices were served requiring repairs..... | Nil |
| (3) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of notice..... | 5 |

(b) Proceedings under Sections 16, 18 & 23 of the Housing Act, 1957:-

(1)	Number of dwelling houses dealt with under Section 16 of the Housing Act 1957.....	33
(2)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which demolition orders were made.....	7
(3)	Number of dwelling houses the subject of undertakings not to use for human habitation when vacated.....	12
(4)	Number of dwelling houses the subject of undertakings to repair.....	14
(5)	Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of demolition orders.....	5
(6)	Number of dwelling houses repaired as a result of undertakings given by owners.....	15
(7)	Number of demolition orders revoked.....	-

(c) Proceedings under the Public Health Act 1936:-

(1)	Houses in which defects were remedied after the service of informal/formal notices.....	68
(2)	Notices served for conversion of earth closets into water closets.....	18

Rent Act 1957 - Certificates of Disrepair.

Rent increases for controlled houses and the decontrol of a substantial number of larger houses should enable landlords to carry out essential repairs and maintain their property in a satisfactory condition.

The number of certificates of disrepair issued by local authorities is relatively small. This should not be regarded however as indicating the general fitness of houses. It is more likely to be attributed to fear of eviction, or of court proceedings, to a lack of interest by the tenants or hesitation on the part of owners to increase the rents of houses requiring repair, than to be due to the absence of items of disrepair.

Applications for certificates of disrepair during the year under review numbered two. Applications for certificates have however been small in number since the Act came into force, a total of forty-eight having been received since the introduction of the Act.

Proceedings under the Rent Act 1957:-

Part 1. Applications for Certificates of Disrepair.

- | | | |
|-----|--|-----|
| (1) | Number of applications for Certificates..... | 2 |
| (2) | Number of decisions not to issue certificates..... | 1 |
| (3) | Number of decisions to issue certificates..... | 1 |
| (4) | Number of undertakings given by landlords under paragraph 5 of the First Schedule..... | Nil |
| (5) | Number of undertakings refused by Local Authority under proviso in paragraph 5 of the First Schedule | Nil |
| (6) | Number of certificates issued..... | 1 |

Part 11. Applications for Cancellation of Certificates

- | | | |
|------|--|-----|
| (7) | Applications by landlords to Local Authority for cancellation of Certificates..... | 1 |
| (8) | Objections by tenants to cancellation of certificates..... | Nil |
| (9) | Decision by Local Authority to cancel in spite of tenants objection..... | Nil |
| (10) | Certificates cancelled by Local Authority..... | 1 |

Part 111. Applications for Certificates as to the
Remedying of Defects.

- | | | |
|------|--|-----|
| (11) | Application by landlord to Local Authority for Certificate as to the Remedying of Defects..... | Nil |
| (12) | Decision by Local Authority to issue certificate | Nil |

SECTION 'B'

WATER SUPPLIES.

The importance of a pure and adequate water supply cannot be over emphasised. The improved standard in the purity of public water supply together with the more adequate sources have contributed towards eliminating diseases and the prospect of the longer life of to-day.

Whilst to-day water borne diseases have been reduced to insignificant proportions, the possibility of disease from water must never be overlooked. Local authorities have the statutory duty to determine the sufficiency and wholesomeness of water supplies in their districts.

The undermentioned water undertakings operate in the Council's district:-

Bucks Water Board
Rickmansworth & Uxbridge Valley Water Company.

Bucks Water Board.

Reports received from the Board indicate that the water supply has been satisfactory in quality and quantity during the year 1961.

257 bacteriological examinations of the various sources have been taken. Two samples of treated water that showed the presence of coliform organisms were repeated and found then to be free of contamination. The waters are not plumbo solvent.

Rickmansworth & Uxbridge Valley Water Company.

Reports received from the Company indicate also that their water supplies are satisfactory both in quality and quantity.

Bacteriological examinations are made at frequent intervals, the sources which supply part of the Wycombe Rural District being tested two or three times weekly. All samples were found to be free from coliform organisms in 100 ml. The waters are not plumbo solvent.

Piddington Water Supply.

A private supply of water at Piddington serves 112 houses and a factory. Supervision of the chlorinating plant to treat the supply has continued throughout the year and samples taken at weekly intervals have been submitted for bacteriological examination. Four samples showed slight contamination with coliform organisms. Repeat samples taken immediately after the reports were received proved to be satisfactory.

Chemical analysis has shown the water to be of good chemical purity and satisfactory. The waters are not plumbosolvent.

Other Sources.

There are comparatively few houses which are not within reach of public water mains. The occupiers of some houses, however, still derive their water from wells and rainwater tanks. In certain cases individual properties are away from water mains, in other cases owner-occupiers with limited incomes are reluctant to incur the cost of a main water supply, whilst the occupiers of other dwellings have a prejudice in favour of their individual supplies as compared with a main water supply.

Supplying main water to houses which are isolated often presents a financial problem which may be overcome by asking householders to make a special contribution towards the cost of extending the water mains.

Surveillance of water supplies has continued throughout the year. Of the 35 samples collected and submitted for chemical/bacteriological examination 23 were reported upon as not conforming to a satisfactory standard. Owners of properties were accordingly requested to provide a wholesome and sufficient supply. In some cases water mains were not within a reasonable distance and the Council approved main extensions of a minor character.

SECTION 'C'

SANITATION.

It is pleasing to record the progress which is being made in connection with the new main drainage schemes in the areas of Wooburn, Little Marlow, Flackwell Heath, Tylers Green, Hazlemere, Hughenden, Downley and Stokenchurch, and to reflect that with the implementation of these schemes cesspool drainage in these districts with all its attendant deficiencies and difficulties will disappear.

Householders will no longer have anxieties relating to insufficient cesspool accommodation and limitation of the sanitary household services. Possible risk of contamination of water supplies by sewage from overflowing and defective cesspools is another hazard which is removed. Furthermore improvement in the standard of cleanliness of certain watercourses will be another achievement.

For these and many other reasons a satisfactory planned system for the disposal of the waste products of human living is most welcome.

SECTION 'D'.

PEST INFESTATION CONTROL.

It has been estimated that the Common Rat population is at least as large as the human population of Great Britain.

Quite apart from their destructive habits causing them to be a factor of considerable economic importance, rats are definitely carriers of disease and as such constitute an ever present menace to the public health.

Rodent extermination is therefore a matter of major importance, and this is reflected in the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949, which clearly defines the duties of owners and occupiers of premises and local authorities in the work of pest extermination. Rodent control is a community responsibility, and in this connection occupiers of premises can play an important part by reporting immediately any infestation which occurs in order that action may be promptly taken.

Workable Area Committee.

The Council is a constituent member of the South Bucks & East Berks Workable Area Committee and meetings of the Committee have been held at regular intervals.

The Committee, comprised of representatives from Local authorities, Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food and other interested organisations, is a most useful medium for exchange of views of pest destruction work.

Research work is continuously carried out by personnel of the Ministry in order to discover more effective material and methods for pest destruction and members of the Committee are kept informed of these developments.

Rodent Control Treatment.

The rodent destruction service which the Council operate has been extensively engaged on farms and other business premises.

The income derived from this work during the year 1961 totalled £1,273.18s.7d.

As a result of survey and notification by occupiers of infested premises, extermination of rodents has been carried out at dwelling houses, factory premises, food premises, refuse tips, etc. Details relating to the work are submitted in the accompanying table.

Other Pests.

Persons troubled with wasps have called upon the Public Health Department for assistance.

As a result 74 nests were destroyed. Harassed residents were very appreciative of the service given.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949.

- 2 -

Type of Property	Local Authority	Dwelling Houses (including Council Houses).	All other (including Business Premises).	Total	Agricultural
I. Number of properties in Local Authority's District.....	17	15,312	895	16,224	341
II. Number of properties inspected as a result of:-					
(a) Notification.....	-	299	66	365	55
(b) Survey under the Act	17	204	32	253	142
(c) Otherwise.....	-	4,512	760	5,272	21
III. Number of properties inspected (in Sec.II) which were found to be infested by:-					
(a) Rats	1	4	4	9	8
Major					
Minor	5	405	75	485	160
(b) Mice	-	-	1	1	4
Major					
Minor	2	103	55	160	149
IV. Number of infested properties (in Sec.III) treated by the Local Authority.....	8	482	126	616	304

SECTION 'E'

SUPERVISION OF FOOD SUPPLIES.

The food industry in this country has in an unobtrusive way undergone changes which amount almost to a revolution since the end of the War. Artificial methods of stock rearing, factory preparation and pre-packaging of food, quick frozen foods and auto vending machines, self service stores and supermarkets which are commonplace to-day typify this trend.

Mobile Food Shops.

The Ministers may make Regulations for the licensing of vehicles as well as stalls from which food is sold. An undesirable practice is the adaptation of vehicles unsuitable as mobile shops and operated by persons untrained in food handling. A system of licensing or registration is warranted in order to effectively control this class of food trading.

Automatic Food Handling.

A modern development in the retailing of food has been the extension in the use of food vending machines. Food sold in this manner may be perishable or vulnerable to infection. It is essential therefore that machines are well designed, constructed of suitable materials, are capable of maintaining the requisite temperatures and are easily serviced and cleaned.

Refrigeration.

The improvement in refrigeration technique which has taken place since the 1920's has completely altered the outlook of both trades and consumer. It has reduced loss from spoilage of unsold food to negligible quantities, particularly meat and meat products. The consumer is now rarely faced with perishable goods of dubious soundness, and is extremely selective and demands food in prime condition at all times.

The use of refrigeration in commerce is now widespread. Foods must be stored at the temperature appropriate to the particular commodity and accordingly foods of widely different character must be segregated.

Frozen Foods.

The marketing of quick frozen foods has expanded in meteoric fashion. This method of marketing is essentially hygienic in concept and enables the average town-dweller to obtain really fresh goods - especially vegetables and fish - of a quality previously unknown. The basic requirements for successful operation are that a first-quality product is essential and this must be processed at lightning speed. A temperature of 0°F is achieved with the least possible delay and it should be maintained at this temperature right up to the point of sale.

To ensure this, it is essential that display cabinets should be constructed and operated to maintain this temperature. The cabinet should be defrosted regularly, the goods should not be stocked above the load line, new stock should be placed in the cabinet immediately upon receipt, packs should not be interfered with, only quick frozen foods should be stored in the cabinet and careful stock rotation should be maintained. If as a result of a break-down foods become de-frosted they should not be refrozen and offered for sale.

Food Hygiene.

One of the most important of public health duties is that of achieving a pure food supply. Adequate control to ensure that food is a wholesome, nutritious and appetizing product, free from adulteration and contamination is a high priority with health authorities. Progressive legislation coupled with constant action by health officials and co-operation from the food trade have secured improved standards.

However there is still room for improvement. The number of incidents of food poisoning notified in 1960 totalled 6,427. Since 1939 the increase in food poisoning has been considerable. The reasons are mainly concerned with the change in feeding habits of the population. Communal feeding is now well established with all its attendant risks should infection be introduced. A great variety of contaminated foodstuffs is being imported for human and animal use and this together with any contaminated egg and meat products of our own country are also contributory factors.

To guard against food poisoning adequate cooking and refrigeration is essential. Some products can be rendered safe by pasteurization but the sources of infection are so numerous and the channels by which infection occurs so diverse that nothing but virtual sterilization of the final product by proper cooking, and of prevention of bacterial growth by refrigeration, can ensure a reasonable degree of safety in our diet.

Food Premises.

A summary of the work of the Department in connection with visits to food premises is as follows:-

Number of visits.....	514
Food rooms redecorated.....	24
Food rooms repaired (floors, walls, ceilings, windows)..<	21
Wash-basins provided.....	4
New Sanitary accommodation provided.....	3
Provision of constant hot water supply.....	4
Rodent infestation dealt with.....	23
Additional ventilation provided.....	5
Refuse receptacles provided.....	16

Ice-cream.

Prior to 1947 there was no control of the trade. With the relaxation of rationing, ice-cream returned to its former place in the nation's diet, but as a result of food poisoning outbreaks alleged to be associated with ice-cream, the Ice-cream (Heat Treatment) Regulations were introduced in 1947. This imposed control both of premises and product.

Until recently the trend in the ice-cream industry has been for the manufacture of ice-cream to be introduced into the hands of a comparatively small number of firms.

The situation in recent years has changed however and the increasing use of soft serve machines has lessened local authority control. Soft ice-cream is only partly made in registered premises, production being completed in vehicles, or, in other instances, in shops previously used for the storage and sale of ice-cream. There is no power to require the registration of a vehicle containing such a machine. It would appear that in view of the recent developments in the manufacture of soft ice-cream the legislation governing the manufacture, storage and sale of ice-cream will need revision.

Five new registrations of premises for the sale of ice-cream have been approved during the year under review and the number of registered premises now total 136.

Milk.

Only milk which is heat-treated or tuberculin tested can be sold within the Council's district which is a "Specified Area". This area is now one of the many throughout England and Wales which are "Specified Areas".

Specially designated milks were introduced before the war on a voluntary basis as alternatives to ordinary raw milk. Because their production and sale were subject to various conditions their hygiene quality and greater safety made them superior to raw undesignated milk. Now that raw undesignated milk can no longer be sold the special designations cease to have any real significance.

Special designations and specified areas have therefore served their purpose and no doubt in the near future there will be a change in the statutory and administrative arrangements for the control of milk.

Meat.

In the preceding report I summarised the position regarding the implementation of Section 3 of the Slaughterhouse Act, 1958. This necessitated the Council submitting a report to the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries & Food on the slaughterhouse facilities which would become available to meet the requirements of the district, and acceptance of that report by the Minister.

In approving the report the Minister prescribed 1st July, 1962, as the date from which all slaughterhouses in the district must comply with the new construction regulations.

On a national scale it is known that by the time the first statutory reports were submitted by local authorities, the 4,500 slaughterhouses of the post-control period had already been reduced to a net figure of about 3,800. The reports indicated that at least 1,000 of these are likely to close within the next few years as the appointed days become operative.

Between 1954 and the time the reports were submitted, approximately 150 new slaughterhouses were built mainly by private companies or individuals. The statutory reports indicate that, in addition, over 200 new slaughterhouses are planned of which 50 will be public slaughterhouses.

It is considered that when all the reports have been implemented the total number of slaughterhouses in England and Wales will be approximately 3,000.

During the year under review proposals were submitted and approved whereby the three private slaughterhouses in the Council's district will be made to comply with the new slaughterhouse hygiene regulations.

These regulations emphasise the necessity to ensure that stricter attention should be paid to standards of hygiene both in regard to the premises and the methods of slaughter and meat production. The modern slaughterhouse must be looked upon primarily as a food preparing establishment - not just a place where live animals are taken to be slaughtered. The regulations provide standards of lay-out and construction, adequate facilities for efficient meat inspection, hygienic methods of slaughter, storage of meat and satisfactory lairage facilities.

Modernisation of one of the slaughterhouses was completed in August of 1961, and killing commenced on a considerably increased scale.

Slaughter of Animals Acts 1933 and 1954 and The Slaughter of Animals (Prevention of Cruelty) Regulations, 1958.

These Acts and Regulations are for the purpose of preventing cruelty and ensuring that no animals shall be slaughtered in a slaughterhouse except by a person licensed by the local authority.

The licences of 18 slaughtermen were renewed and one new licence granted.

Poultry Packing Stations.

There are two establishments in the area in which poultry are processed on an extensive scale.

The birds are killed, bled, put into plucking machines, singed, eviscerated, eviscerated carcasses washed and placed into chill-tanks. The carcasses are then placed in diaphane envelopes and subsequently loaded into blast freezers. The birds emerge in a hard frozen condition and are packed in cartons in readiness for distribution.

These poultry packing station have been the subject of frequent inspections and they are claiming an increasing proportion of the inspectorate's time.

MEAT INSPECTION.

Carcases and Offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part.

	Cattle Excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed	760	78	147	2,655	1,280	-
Number inspected	760	78	147	2,655	1,280	-
<u>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci:-</u>	-	-	-	-	-	-
Whole carcasses condemned.....	-	-	-	-	-	-
Part carcass or organ condemned....	248	34	-	70	178	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci	32.6%	43.5%	-	2.6%	13.9%	-
<u>Tuberculosis only:</u>						
Whole carcass condemned.....	-	-	-	-	-	-
Part carcass or organ condemned....	-	-	-	-	52	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis.....	-	-	-	-	4%	-
<u>Cysticercosis:-</u>						
Part carcass or organ condemned....	20	-	-	-	-	-
Carcasses refrigerated.....	3	-	-	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned..	-	-	-	-	-	-

These figures represent a total carcass weight condemned of
5 cwt. 2 qtr. 22 lbs. and weight of offal 32 cwt. 0 qtr. 1 lb.

The preceding table indicates the number and different classes of animals killed, and the number of animals affected with tuberculosis, cysticercosis bovis and diseases other than tuberculosis and cysticercosis bovis.

Tuberculosis was absent in cattle. The outstanding feature in recent years in the field of meat inspection has been the dramatic fall in the incidence of bovine tuberculosis. Once the condition most commonly found in the post mortem examination of cattle in our slaughterhouses, it is now disappearing rapidly. The change has been brought about by the tuberculosis eradication scheme of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries & Food.

The incidence of diseases other than tuberculosis and cysticercosis bovis would appear to be fairly high. It should be pointed out however that the majority of infections are parasitic conditions particularly so in the case of fascioliasis (flukes) which are found frequently in the liver and lungs of cattle and to a lesser degree in sheep.

The incidence of liver fluke in cattle throughout the country is very high, (26.8 per cent). Such an incidence would appear to merit investigation into the possible reduction of infestation by this parasite.

Cysticercosis bovis occurred in 20 cattle but was not found in any of the cows examined in the slaughterhouses in the Council's district.

Causes of condemnation other than tuberculosis and cysticercosis bovis included:- abscesses, actinomycosis, actinobacillosis, fatty infiltration and degeneration of livers, jaundice, nephritis, general parasitic conditions of livers and lungs, pericarditis, peritonitis, pneumonia, pleurisy, telangiectasis, bruising, emaciation and cirrhosis.

SECTION 'F'

FACTORIES AND WORKPLACES.

Factories.

The factory premises registered with the Council number 170.

The tables submitted herewith contain statistical information required by the Ministry of Labour and National Service, and include the work of the Public Health Inspector in relation to factory administration as it concerns the local authority.

Matters claiming attention include cleanliness, ventilation, lighting, sanitary accommodation and means of escape in case of fire. A number of factories have canteens and are therefore subject to the provision of the Food & Drugs Act 1955 and the Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955.

Homework.

A provision of the Factories Act 1937 requires firms employing out-workers to furnish to the local authority twice yearly lists giving the names and addresses of persons carrying out specified work connected with the business of the factory at premises outside the factory.

Homes of the outworkers should conform to a satisfactory standard of environmental hygiene.

The lists submitted to the Council showed that outworkers were principally employed on the making and altering of wearing apparel.

1. Inspections made for Provisions as to Health.				
Premises	Number on Register	Inspection	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted.
(1) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3, 4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities....	10	8	1	Nil
(2) Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authorities.....	160	111	12	Nil
(3) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (ex outworkers premises)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Totals.....	170	119	13	Nil

2. CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND.

	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prose- cutions were instituted.
	Found	Reme- died	Referred		
			To H.M. Inspec- tor	By H.M. Inspec- tor	
Want of Cleanliness....	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Overcrowding.....	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Unreasonable tempera- ture.....	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Inadequate ventilation.	2	2	Nil	Nil	Nil
Ineffective drainage of floors.....	1	1	Nil	Nil	Nil
Sanitary Conveniences..					
(a) Insufficient....	8	7	Nil	1	Nil
(b) Unsuitable or defective.....	9	8	Nil	5	Nil
(c) Not separate for sexes.....	1	1	Nil	1	Nil
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outworkers)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Totals	21	19	Nil	7	Nil

OUTWORKS.

Sections 110 and 111

Nature of work.	No. of outworkers in August list required by Sec. 110 (1) (c)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises	Notices served	Prosecutions
Wearing apparel making etc....	23	-	-	-	-	-
Household Linen	2	-	-	-	-	-
Lace, Lace curtains and nets.	2	-	-	-	-	-
Artificial flowers.....	4	-	-	-	-	-
Furniture and Upholstery...	6	-	-	-	-	-
Lampshades....	1	-	-	-	-	-
Totals	38	-	-	-	-	-

Rag Flock.

The Rag Flock and Other Filling Materials Act, 1951, forbids the use of filling materials to which the Act applies for such purposes as upholstery and the stuffing of bedding, toys and baby carriages except on premises registered by a local authority.

Standards of cleanliness of filling materials are given by regulations and penalties are prescribed for using unclean material.

Workers in Non-Industrial Premises.

In preceding annual reports I have stated that although there is legislative control of public health matters affecting persons in factories and workshops there is a notable omission in this respect with regard to office workers and others engaged in non-industrial employment. It is estimated that over ten million workers are inadequately protected. They are principally the people who work in shops, offices, the distributive trades, theatres, cinemas and on the railways.

The Gower Committee was set up in 1947 to deal with this matter and its final report was issued in 1949. Throughout the intervening years there has been hesitation and procrastination in implementing the report. Legislation relating to the health and welfare of office workers and others engaged in non-industrial employment is long overdue.

SECTION 'G'

Clean Air.

The whole field of air pollution is an aspect of public health work which demands increasing attention by the government, local authorities, industry and householders.

It is estimated that poured out of Britains' chimneys each year are 2 million tons of smoke, over $1\frac{1}{2}$ million tons of grit and ash and 5 million tons of sulphur gases.

We breathe about 38 lbs of air every day; the smoke in the air includes black soot, powdery ash, harsh grit, droplets of sticky tar and oil and corrosive sulphur gases. Domestic and industrial chimneys are equally to blame. Homes are responsible for more smoke, and industry for more grit. House smoke contains more tarry particles, and is particularly harmful because it issues at a low level.

The soot, tar and oil is unburned coal and is just wasted heat - paid for and not used. Smoke with its grit, tar and acids blackens the lungs, and irritates the throat and breathing passages. It blackens and corrodes buildings, metals, fabrics, leather, paper, works of art. All this costs money. The Beaver Committee set up by the Government, estimated that air pollution costs the nation no less than £300 millions a year. Even if you live in the cleanest place you pay your share of the cost which falls on the state, industry and trade, and which is of course passed on in higher prices and taxes.

Smoke creates gloom, dirt and squalor. It destroys amenity, brightness and beauty. The housewife has to work harder and longer and has to spend more on materials because of the endless invasion of smoke dirt and acids. Smoke prevention is the greatest labour saving device waiting to be introduced into the British home.

The purpose of the Clean Air Act is to deal with the social evil of atmospheric pollution. Earlier legislation, albeit ineffective, was limited to industrial and commercial premises. The Clean Air Act however, gives the local authority power to deal with the domestic smoke problem by making an order, which must be confirmed by the Minister, declaring the whole or any part of its district as a "smoke control area". Such an area containing dwelling houses, industrial and commercial properties or a mixture of all three, would become a smoke free area in so far as any emission of smoke would constitute an offence under the Act.

Railways.

The reduction of railway smoke is progressing as the British Transport Commission implements its modernisation schemes.

Industry.

The prevention of industrial smoke raises many technical problems. Considerable sums however are being spent on plant improvement and industry is generally recognising its obligations to reduce air pollution.

Domestic.

The domestic chimney is responsible for more than half the total smoke from all sources, and for the first time local authorities can now control domestic smoke. Smoke control orders are the means provided by the Act for dealing with the domestic smoke problem.

Improvements in this sphere are however evolving. New and efficient appliances are replacing the old type of fire grate. Smokeless fuels are ousting coal, and gas, electricity and oil fuel are being used increasingly.

Control Measures.

Control measures which the Council are at present operating in order to prevent atmospheric pollution include:-

- (1) Action where necessary against the emission of dark smoke and securing the minimum emission of grit and dust.
- (2) Ensuring that new industrial furnaces are not installed unless they are capable so far as practicable of being operated without emitting smoke.
- (3) Regulating the height of chimneys in connection with the erection or extension of industrial buildings.
- (4) Implementing byelaws which require all new buildings to be equipped with smokeless fuel appliances.
- (5) One smoke control order made jointly by the Council and a neighbouring local authority is now operative in connection with a new housing estate, part of which is in the Council's district, and part in the area of the neighbouring authority.

Road Vehicle Pollution.

Growing public concern over smoke and fumes from diesel vehicles has led to a new Government regulation to control the excess fuel device; a Private Members Bill, withdrawn after the second reading; a statement on the subject by the National Society of Clean Air and a report by the Institution of Road Engineers.

The problem is being widely studied.

SECTION 'H'

MISCELLANEOUS.

Caravans.

Implementation of the Caravan Sites & Control of Development Act 1960, has steadily proceeded during the year under review.

This Act designed to strengthen the powers of local authorities and planning authorities to control the siting of caravans, and to ensure that caravan sites are properly equipped and run necessitated a survey of all caravan sites in the district.

When planning permissions are given site licences have to be issued and conditions prescribed in order to regulate the sites and secure satisfactory conditions. The staff of the Public Health Department has been extensively engaged in this work and in the year 1961 the sites were the subject of 890 visits. 98 licences were issued relating to the stationing of 155 caravans. Work in this connection is continuing as the planning status of each site is determined.

It is said that caravan sites are an admission of failure to build houses or make available houses at prices which the people can afford. Most of the people living in caravans would prefer to be in houses.

Agriculture (Safety, Health & Welfare Provisions) Act, 1956.

Certain provisions of this Act require local authorities to determine the sufficiency of sanitary conveniences for the use of workers on agricultural units, and by notice secure additional sanitary accommodation where there is inadequate provision.

During the year 1961 inspection of agricultural units has continued. 270 units have now been visited and 31 occupiers have been requested to provide sufficient sanitary accommodation for their employees.

Hairdressers.

The Council have adopted Section 52 of the Buckinghamshire County Council Act which provides for the registration of hairdressers and barbers.

The Council have now made byelaws under the same Act for the purpose of securing cleanliness of the premises, instruments, towels, materials and equipment together with the cleanliness of persons employed on the premises in regard to both themselves and their clothing.

Twenty-eight premises have now been registered for the carrying on of the business of hairdresser and/or barber.

Registration of Dealers in Old Metals and Marine Stores.

There are 12 premises within the rural district where the business of dealing in old metals is transacted. In accordance with Section 88 of the Public Health Amendments Act 1907, records must be kept in relation to articles purchased by such dealers.

Pet Animals Act, 1951.

This Act regulates the sale of pet animals making provision for the licensing of pet animal shops and imposing conditions for the animals to be accommodated and cared for in a satisfactory manner.

One shop was licensed during the year under review.

Heating Appliances (Fireguards) Regulations, 1953.

This Act makes it an offence to sell or expose for sale any heating appliances not fitted with a suitable guard.

No contraventions of the Act have been observed.

Licensing of Game Dealers.

The Council granted four licences authorising dealers to buy and sell game.

Infectious Diseases.

Thirty visits have been made in connection with cases of notifiable infectious diseases. Relevant information with regard to the history of the cases obtained and recorded, contacts checked and disinfection of rooms and bedding carried out.

Noise.

When considering noise from a public health point of view our concern must be over the effects of intolerable noise and vibration on the individual.

Sound is a form of energy in which the ear is subjected to a rapid increase and decrease in pressure. If a very large amplitude occurred the ear-drum fractured; if a lower but still high amplitude of sound occurred the ear was able to withstand it but gradual deafness developed. At much lower levels no physical damage arose, but annoyance and mental anguish could be caused by the intrusion of sound.

The Noise Abatement Act, 1960 enables local authorities to take statutory action to deal with any noise or vibration which causes nuisance.

Control measures of the future may include maximum sound levels being prescribed, establishment of Noise Control Areas and compulsory sound insulation of industrial buildings.

During the year 5 complaints of noise nuisances were received and the cases investigated. Where statutory nuisances were confirmed appropriate action was taken in order to secure abatement of the nuisances.

CONCLUSION.

Looking back over the years from the middle of the last century, environmental health work has played an important part in the progress made in the promotion of health. Although it may now lack some of the drama associated with it in bygone days it still has a vital role to perform.

There are problems still to be overcome. Constant vigilance and action is therefore necessary by central government and local authorities supported by an informed public in order to maintain and improve upon the standards we now enjoy.